Volume 2020 Article 96

2020

Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 1.5-mile-long Kenney Fort Boulevard Extension Project, City of Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas

Jessica Ulmer

Nicole Inskeep

Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 1.5-mile-long Kenney Fort Boulevard Extension Project, City of Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas

Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 1.5-mile-long Kenney Fort Boulevard Extension Project, City of Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas

TEXAS ANTIQUITIES PERMIT NO. 9390

NOVEMBER 2020

PREPARED FOR

CP&Y, Inc.

PREPARED BY

SWCA Environmental Consultants

Redacted

INTENSIVE CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE PROPOSED 1.5-MILE-LONG KENNEY FORT BOULEVARD EXTENSION PROJECT, CITY OF ROUND ROCK, WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

Prepared for

CP&Y, Inc.
The Chase Bank Building – Tower of the Hills
13809 Research Boulevard, #300
Austin, Texas 78750
Attn: Stacey Benningfield
(512) 349-0700

Prepared by

Jessica Ulmer, B.A., and Nicole Inskeep, B.A.

Principal Investigator

Michael J. Retter, M.A.

SWCA Environmental Consultants
4407 Monterey Oaks Boulevard
Building 1, Suite 110
Austin, Texas 78749
www.swca.com

SWCA Project No. 35658

Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9390

SWCA Cultural Resources Report No. 20-512

November 2020

ABSTRACT

At the request of CP&Y, and on behalf of the City of Round Rock, Texas, in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an intensive cultural resources survey for the proposed 1.5-mile-long Kenney Fort Boulevard Extension Project in the City of Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas. The project consists of an expansion of Kenney Fort Boulevard with a 6-lane arterial roadway that would ultimately connect State Highway (SH) 45 to U.S. Highway (US) 79. In addition, the proposed project includes improvements to Gattis School Road from Meister Lane to Rusk Road and improvements at the existing SH 45 grade-separation. The total project area for cultural resource survey consists of approximately 42.1 acres, which includes 6.2 acres of existing right-of-way and 35.9 acres of additional right-of-way that would be required for the project. Of the 35.9 additional acres, 12.6 acres is currently owned by the State of Texas. The remaining 23.3 is being acquired from private owners (much of which has already been acquired by the City at-risk). In addition, a 0.2 acre of permanent drainage easement would also be acquired. It is anticipated that the depth of project impacts will generally be limited to 4 feet but in one isolated area along an approximately 500 foot long segment where the right-of-way slopes down from east to west the cut section on the east side will have a maximum depth of 8 feet. As the City of Round Rock is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, the project is subject to review and approval by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT); therefore, the work was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9390 and complied with requirements of the ACT.

A background literature and records review indicated that 18 previously recorded archaeological sites are present within a 1-mile radius of the project area, including one archaeological site (41WM1167) that intersects the project area. In addition to the records review, SWCA conducted a pedestrian survey, augmented with shovel testing, within the entire 1.5-mile-long project area. For linear projects, the THC/Council of Texas Archaeologists (CTA) survey standards require a minimum of 16 shovel tests per mile, or minimally 16 shovel tests per 100-foot-wide survey transect across the project area, with thorough documentation of all exceptions (e.g., disturbance, slope, and impervious surfaces) noted. Based on these standards, the project area required approximately 72 shovel tests. SWCA excavated a total of 92 shovel tests within the project area, exceeding the THC's required survey standards. No cultural materials were identified on the ground surface or within any of the shovel tests excavated within the project area. During the current survey, SWCA found that 41WM1167 had been destroyed. No cultural materials were observed on surface or subsurface and the site has been impacted by industrial and residential construction. On June 7, 2007, the THC determined the site was not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

In accordance with the ACT, SWCA made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources within the project area. No archaeological sites were identified that meet the criteria for designation as a State Antiquities Landmark, per 13 Texas Administrative Code 26.12; therefore, SWCA recommends that no additional cultural resources investigations should be warranted within the project area, as currently defined.

This page intentionally left blank.

CONTENTS

Appendices

Figures

Tables

INTRODUCTION

At the request of CP&Y, and on behalf of the City of Round Rock, Texas, in coordination with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), SWCA Environmental Consultants (SWCA) conducted an intensive cultural resources survey for the proposed 1.5-mile-long Kenney Fort Boulevard Extension Project in the City of Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas (Figures 1 and 2). The project consists of an expansion of Kenney Fort Boulevard with a 6-lane arterial roadway that would ultimately connect State Highway (SH) 45 to U.S. Highway (US) 79. In addition, the proposed project includes improvements to Gattis School Road from Meister Lane to Rusk Road and improvements at the existing SH 45 grade-separation. The total project area for cultural resource survey consists of approximately 42.1 acres, which includes 6.2 acres of existing right-of-way (ROW) and 35.9 acres of additional ROW that would be required for the project. Of the additional ROW, 12.6 acres is currently owned by the State of Texas. The remaining 23.3 is being acquired from private owners (much of which has already been acquired by the City at-risk). In addition, a 0.2 acre of permanent drainage easement would also be acquired. The project will occur on City of Round Rock lands (a political subdivision of the State of Texas); therefore, the project is subject to review and approval by the Texas Historical Commission (THC) under the Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT).

Archaeological investigations were performed to comply with the ACT under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9390. All investigations were conducted in accordance with THC and Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA) standards. SWCA conducted an intensive pedestrian survey with subsurface testing of the entire 1.5-mile-long project area. The goal of the work was to identify prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the project area; to establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate regarding the project area; and to evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or as a State Antiquities Landmark (SAL).

Project Personnel

Michael J. Retter, M.A., served as Principal Investigator and Project Manager for the duration of the project, overseeing overall logistics and organization, managing reporting, and agency consultation. The survey was completed by archeologists Jessica Ulmer, B.A., and Benjamin Morton, B.A., on July 7 and 8, 2020, under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9390. Jessica Ulmer and Nicole Inskeep, B.A., authored the report, Alyana Fernandez and Jason Kainer produced all field and report maps for the project, and Lauri Logan provided technical editing and document preparation.

Project Description

The project consists of the extension of Kenney Fort Boulevard that will connect SH 45 and US 79. The project includes construction of a 6-lane arterial roadway and improvements to Gattis School Road and SH 45. The total project area for cultural resource survey consists of approximately 42.1 acres, which includes the 35.9 acres of additional ROW and 6.2 acres of existing ROW, with the survey corridor ranging from 173 to 254 feet wide; this resulted in three survey transects. It is anticipated that the depth of project impacts will generally be limited to 4 feet but in one isolated area along an approximately 500 foot long segment where the right-of-way slopes down from east to west the cut section on the east side will have a maximum depth of 8 feet.

The project area is located on the southern margin of the city of Round Rock, Texas, in southern Williamson County. The project area for the proposed roadway extension trend along residential developments to the east and west, and is depicted on the *Round Rock* and *Pflugerville West*, Texas, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps (see Figure 1). The nearest waterway is Branch Dyer, which roughly parallels the project area. In addition, Brushy Creek is located approximately 0.3 mile north of the project area.

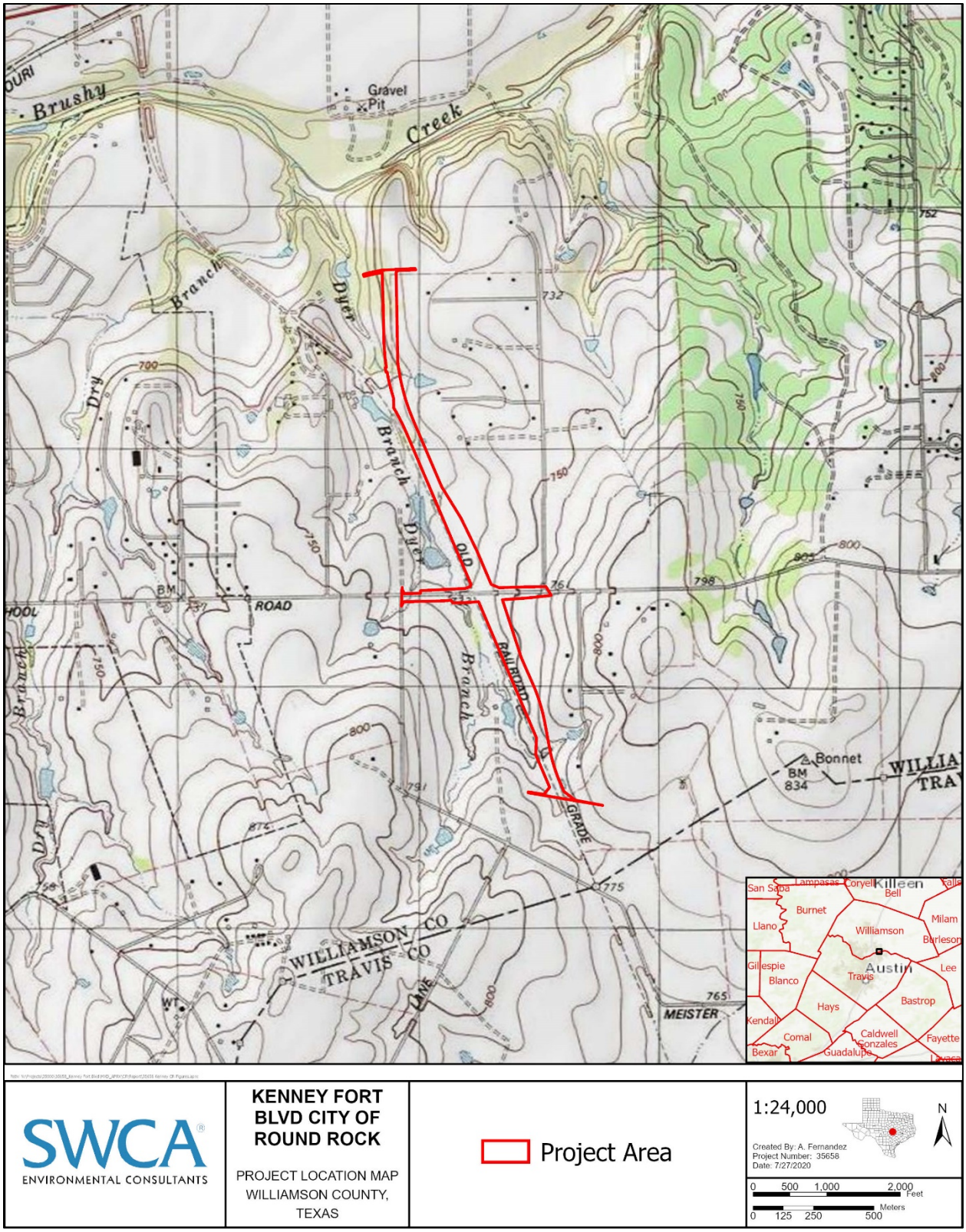

Figure 1. Project location map.

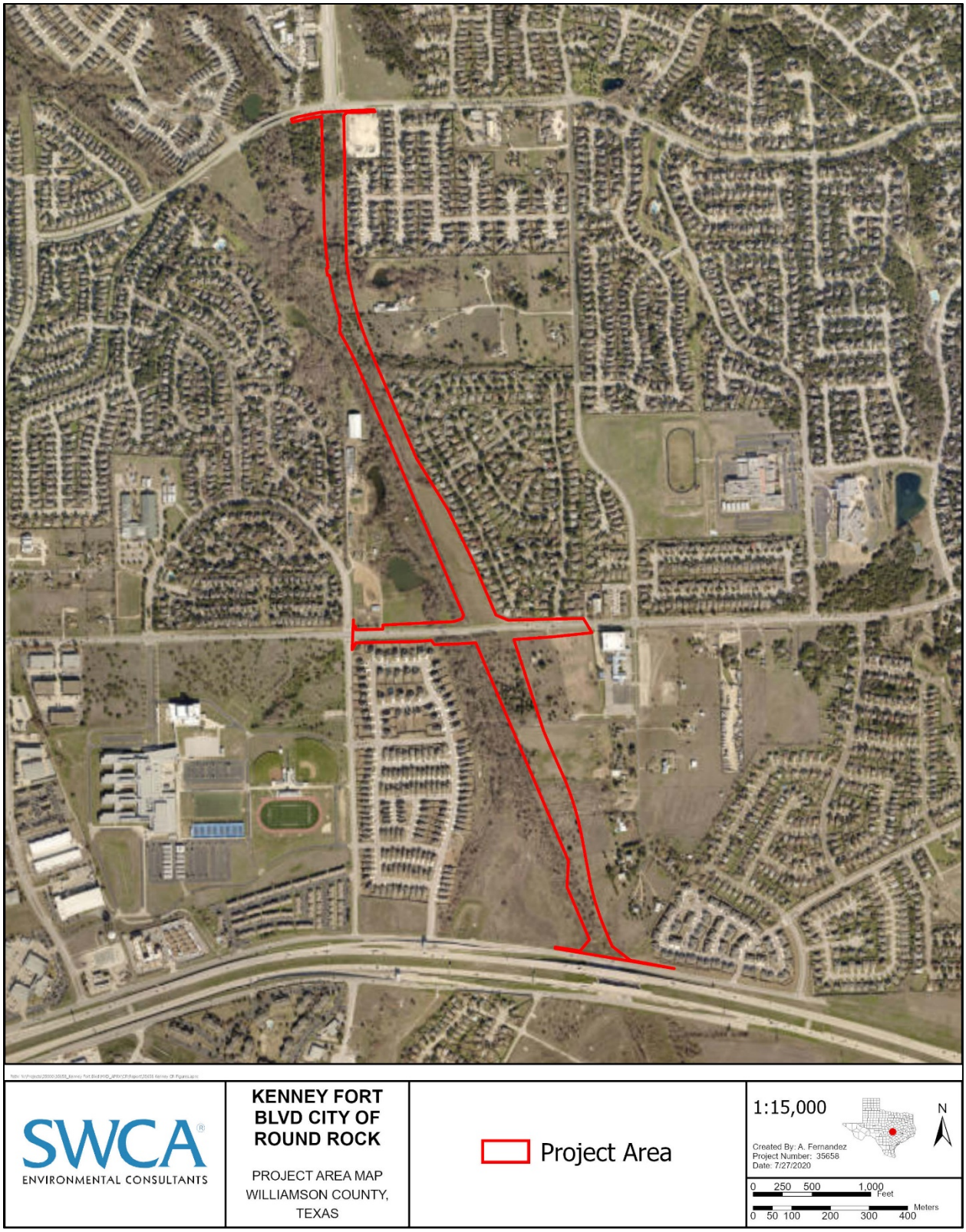

Figure 2. Project area map.

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The project area is situated within the Texas Blackland Prairies Level III ecoregion of Texas. The Blackland Prairies consist of a disjunct region distinguished from surrounding regions by predominately prairie potential natural vegetation with occasional riparian vegetation and fine-textured clayey soils formed in Cretaceous shale, chalk, and marl parent materials. The region now has a higher percentage of cropland than adjacent regions, pasture and forage production for livestock is common, and large areas have been converted to urban and industrial uses (Figure 3) (Griffith et al. 2007).

Figure 3. Overview of the project area, view facing south.

Geology

The project area is situated entirely on Late Cretaceous-age Austin Chalk Formation, which consists of approximately 85 percent calcium carbonate and 15 percent marl (USGS 2020a). The deposits are approximately 325 to 400 feet thick and are very slowly permeable with moderate to high water-holding capacity (USGS 2020a).

Soils

Soils throughout the project area are generally expressed at the surface as clay that formed in calcareous mudstone, chalk, and marl (Table 1). Soils mapped within the project area are identified by three primary soil associations (i.e., Houston Black clay, Austin silty clay, and Austin-Whitewright complex) (Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS] 2020).

The Houston Black series consists of very deep, very slowly permeable soils that formed in clayey residuum derived from calcareous mudstone of Cretaceous age. Slopes range from 0 to 8 percent. Given that this soil developed in place, it has little to no potential to contain intact cultural deposits. These soils comprise 63.1 percent of the project area. The Austin series consists of moderately deep, well-drained,

moderately slowly permeable soils that formed in residuum weathered from chalk. Slopes range from 0 to 8 percent. Based on this soil's in situ development and erosional setting, it has little to no potential to contain intact cultural materials. These soils comprise 11.6 percent of the project area. The Austin-Whitewright complex consists of a combination of the Austin and the Whitewright series. The Whitewright series consists of well-drained soils formed in residuum derived from weakly cemented chalk and marl of Upper Cretaceous Age. Slopes range from 1 to 15 percent. These soils contain a high percentage of chalk, limestone gravels, and platy bedrock and therefore, have no potential to contain intact cultural deposits. These soils comprise 11.6 percent of the project area (NRCS 2020).

Table 1. Soils within the project area

Soil Unit	Description	Acreage	Percent
AuB	Austin silty clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	4.88	11.6
AwC2	Austin-Whitewright complex, 1 to 5 percent slopes, eroded	4.88	11.6
BkC	Brackett association, 1 to 8 percent slopes	3.14	7.5
CaC	Castephen silty clay, 3 to 5 percent slopes	1.77	4.2
EyD	Eddy very gravelly clay loam, 3 to 8 percent slopes	0.90	2.1
HuB	Houston Black clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes	26.57	63.1
Total		**42.14**	**100**

HISTORIC CHRONOLOGY

One previously recorded historic site is located within the project area and no prehistoric sites or materials are located within, or immediately adjacent (within 300 feet) to the project area. Therefore, only the historic period is discussed below.

In the early Historic period (A.D. 1630 to present), the period of European contact and settlement in Texas, the general Austin area was inhabited by several aboriginal groups including the Jumano, Tonkawa, Lipan Apache, and Comanche (Newcomb 2002). The first Europeans into the area were probably Spanish missionaries who established three missions at nearby Barton Springs in 1730 (Webb 1952). The Spanish mission period in this area was of short duration and failed to colonize or even tame the area south of the Colorado River and north of Onion Creek. An aboriginal presence thus continued in the Austin area into the 1860s.

After Mexico gained independence from Spain, the newly formed country used a policy of land grants to attract Anglos from the United States to help inhabit the sparsely populated northern regions of Mexico. During the 1820s, Stephen F. Austin obtained grants from the Mexican government to settle hundreds of families along the lower Brazos and Colorado Rivers (Webb 1952). This colony, known as the "Old Three Hundred Colony," was successful in pushing the European settlement frontier further west into the Central Texas region. Prior to the Texas Revolution, most of the "Old Three Hundred Colony" settlement was focused south of Bastrop and the old La Bahia Road (Webb 1952).

During the Texas Revolution with Mexico, the area continued to be inhabited only by aboriginal Native Americans. After the war, a growing Texan population led many settlers to move northwards in search of open, profitable land to plant crops and raise cattle. This wave of migration spurned new conflicts with the native groups living in the area, cumulating in the Battle of Brushy Creek, near what is today the town of Taylor, in February of 1839. This battle, between the Comanche and the Texas Raiders, resulted in numerous deaths and eventually resulted in the removal of the Native American presence in the area.

After the battle, the nearby town of Waterloo, on the banks of the Colorado River, was renamed Austin and designated the seat of government for the Republic of Texas in 1839 (Webb 1952). Williamson County, located north of the new capital of Austin, was organized shortly afterward in 1848 as the population in the area grew. The county was named in honor of Robert M. Williamson, an area leader and a veteran of the Battle of San Jacinto. During this battle, Williamson lost one of his legs and thereafter, wore a wooden leg, which earned him the colloquial nickname Three-Legged Willie.

The county quickly grew in population and economic prosperity as the rich soils made agriculture one of the top industries in the area. Accompanying the increases in population and commerce was the rapid adoption of slave labor. In 1850, two years after the founding of the county, the slave population in Williamson County totaled 127. By 1864, less than 15 years later, the slave count had multiplied by roughly 10, with an enslaved population of 1,074 (Campbell 1989:266). Following the Civil War, many of the planters turned to cattle to regain their ante-bellum prosperity.

The city of Round Rock was founded in the spring of 1848 under the name of Brushy Creek. In August of 1854, due to the insistence of postal officials, the settlement changed its name from Brushy Creek to the current Round Rock. The community served as a waypoint along the Chisholm Trail for cattle drives en route to Kansas. The town's prosperity and population grew in part to the construction of the International-Great Northern Railroad in 1876. This route was initially built south and east of the city, but subsequent growth has migrated toward the rail line (Scarbrough 2007).

The county remained dedicated primarily to agriculture and cattle production through the first half of the twentieth century. Historic aerials depict homesteads, farmsteads, churches, as well other historic structures occupying the areas just outside of the city proper. In addition to the International-Great Northern Railroad, the Missouri Kansas Texas (MKT) railroad operated from 1870 to 1988 and served an extensive rail network throughout Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri before merging with the Missouri Pacific railroad in 1988. This railroad ran north to south and is located approximately 1.75 miles east of Round Rock. These tracks are still visible today (Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC. 1999).

As the modern era and new technology developed, Williamson County began to see major changes in its configuration. Due to its proximity to Austin, the county quickly became home to numerous large high-tech industries. This rapid influx of people and industries to the area continues to be the hallmark of the southern half of the county today, as the northern half continues to rely on agribusiness.

METHODS

Background Review

SWCA conducted a thorough background literature review of the project area, plus a 1-mile-radius review area. An SWCA archaeologist reviewed the *Round Rock* and *Pflugerville West*, Texas USGS 7.5-minute topographic quadrangle maps on the THC (2020) online Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (Atlas) database, including a search for pertinent records pertaining to the project area. The Atlas provided information on the nature and location of previously conducted cultural resources surveys, previously recorded historic and/or prehistoric archaeological sites, NRHP districts and properties, SALs, Official Texas Historical Markers, Registered Texas Historic Landmarks, cemeteries, and local neighborhood surveys within or near the project area. Additionally, SWCA examined the TxDOT Texas Historic Overlay Maps, a mapping/geographic information system (GIS) database with historic maps and resource information covering most portions of the state (Foster et al. 2006).

Field Methods

SWCA conducted an intensive archaeological field survey of the proposed project area. The survey was of sufficient intensity to determine the nature, extent, and, if possible, significance of any cultural resources located within the proposed project area. For linear projects, the THC/CTA survey standards require a minimum of 16 shovel tests per mile, or minimally 16 shovel tests per 100-foot-wide survey transect across the project area, with thorough documentation of all exceptions (e.g., disturbance, slope, and impervious surfaces). The corridor ranges from 173 to 254 feet wide, which resulted in three survey transects. Based on these standards, the project area required 72 shovel tests; SWCA excavated at total of 92 shovel tests, exceeding the THC's minimum standard. Due to the potential for shallow bedrock, erosional deposits, lack of sediments with potential for buried soils, and the high disturbance along existing roads, SWCA determined that backhoe trenching was unwarranted for the current project area.

The cultural resources survey included SWCA archaeologists examining the project area through both pedestrian and subsurface investigations. The pedestrian survey consisted of walking the project area in systematic transects, and the subsurface explorations consisted of shovel tests placed in areas that had the potential for buried cultural deposits. Specifically, the shovel tests were judgmentally placed in areas of low ground surface visibility and/or high site probability, such as prominent landforms or adjacent to drainages.

Subsurface investigations involved shovel tests that were approximately 30 centimeters (cm) in diameter and excavated in arbitrary 20-cm levels to 100 cm below surface (cmbs) unless soil characteristics or bedrock precluded reaching that depth. SWCA archaeologists screened the matrix from each shovel test through ¼-inch mesh and plotted the location of each excavation using a hand-held global positioning system (GPS) receiver. Each shovel test was recorded on a standardized form to document the excavations. Archaeologists also examined all available erosional exposures and drainage cutbanks for the presence of cultural materials. During the survey of the project area, the archaeological crew photographed the environment and disturbances.

Had SWCA encountered an archaeological site in the proposed project area, it would have been explored as much as possible with consideration to land access constraints. All discovered sites would have been assessed regarding their potential significance in order that recommendations could be made for proper management (i.e., avoidance, non-avoidance, or further work). Historic sites in the proposed project area would have been evaluated for eligibility under NRHP criteria A–D, while prehistoric sites would have been evaluated for eligibility under NRHP Criterion D. SWCA would have completed appropriate Texas Archaeological TexSite Forms for each site discovered during the investigations. Additionally, SWCA would have produced a detailed plan map of each site and plotted locations on USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle maps and relevant project maps.

NRHP Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American archaeology, architecture, and history is present in sites, districts, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and meet the following criteria for evaluation (36 Code of Federal Regulations 60.4 [a–d]):

A. that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history;

B. that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;

C. that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. that have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

NRHP Criteria Considerations

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years should not be considered eligible for the NRHP. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance;

b. A building or structure removed from its original location, but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event;

c. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life;

d. A cemetery which derives its primary importance from graves of person of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events;

e. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived;

f. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or

g. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

RESULTS

Background Review

SWCA conducted a review of records available on the Atlas online database to determine the presence/absence of known prehistoric and historic cultural resources, as well as previously investigated cultural resources project area, within a 1-mile radius of the project area (Figure 4). The background literature review determined that two previous cultural resources surveys intersect the project area. In addition, two previous cultural resources surveys are immediately adjacent (within 300 feet) of the project area and 14 previous cultural resources surveys are within 1 mile of the project area. Table 2 provides a summary of the previous cultural surveys.

Table 2. Previously Conducted Cultural Resource Surveys within 1 Mile of the Project Area

Type	Location	Date	Permit No.	Investigator	Project Sponsor/Agency
Area	Within 1 mile	11/1/1981	N/A	Unknown	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Area	Within 1 mile	6/1/1984	N/A	Unknown	U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Type	Location	Date	Permit No.	Investigator	Project Sponsor/Agency
Linear	Within 1 mile	7/1/1984	N/A	Unknown	Unknown
Linear	Within 1 mile	5/1/1986	N/A	Unknown	EPA
Area	Within 1 mile	4/1/1987	N/A	Unknown	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fort Worth
Linear	Within 1 mile	5/5/1997	N/A	Unknown	Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA)
Linear	Within 1 mile	11/1/1999	N/A	Unknown	LCRA
Linear	Within 1 mile	2/1/2001	N/A	Unknown	Public Utility Commission of Texas
Area	Within 1 mile	11/1/2001	2511	Hicks and Company	USACE-Fort Worth, City of Round Rock
Area	Within 1 mile	9/1/2004	2693	PBS&J	Federal Housing Administration
Area	**Intersects**	**3/9/2007**	**4451**	**SWCA**	**Williamson County**
Area	Within 300 feet	6/1/2007	4259	SWCA	Williamson County
Area	Within 1 mile	9/10/2007	4591	SWCA	Williamson County
Area	Within 1 mile	12/12/2007	4347	Hicks and Company	Federal Housing Administration
Area	Within 1 mile	5/18/2012	6234	Horizon Environmental Services	Texas Department of Transportation
Area	Within 300 feet	4/4/2014	N/A	Abasolo Archaeological Consultants	Chambers Bank
Area	Within 1 mile	1/1/2016	8380	Horizon Environmental Services	City of Round Rock
Area	**Intersects**	**N/A**	**N/A**	**Unknown**	**Unknown**

Bolded items intersect the project area.

Eighteen previously recorded archaeological sites are located within a 1-mile radius of the project area, of which one (41WM1167) intersects the project area (Table 3; see Figure 4). Site 41WM1167 consists of a historic early to mid-twentieth century refuse scatter. The site was originally recorded in March 2007 by SWCA as part of the Arterial A Phase II Roadway Project and was determined as not eligible for the NRHP by the THC on June 7, 2007 (THC 2020).

Table 3. Previously Recorded Archaeological Sites within 1 Mile of the Project Area

Site Trinomial	Location	Site Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility
41WM12	Within 1 mile	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Not eligible (THC 2018)
41WM464	Within 1 mile	Multicomponent	Prehistoric open campsite and nineteenth- to twentieth-century farmstead	Undetermined (THC 1996)
41WM465	Within 1 mile	Multicomponent	Archaic/Late Prehistoric open campsite and Historic nineteenth century Fort and historic scatter	Undetermined
41WM466	Within 1 mile	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Undetermined
41WM467	Within 1 mile	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Undetermined
41WM468	Within 1 mile	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Undetermined
41WM469	Within 1 mile	Prehistoric	Open campsite	Undetermined
41WM470	Within 1 mile	Multicomponent	Archaic open campsite and nineteenth- to twentieth-century farmstead	Not eligible (THC 2006)
41WM780	Within 1 mile	Multicomponent	Prehistoric open campsite and historic cotton farm	Eligible (THC 2002)

Site Trinomial	Location	Site Type	Description	NRHP Eligibility
41WM1028	Within 1 mile	Prehistoric	Middle Archaic burned rock midden	Not eligible (THC 2007)
41WM1029	Within 1 mile	Prehistoric	Lithic scatter	Not eligible (THC 2002)
41WM1157	Within 1 mile	Historic	Well and historic refuse scatter	Not eligible (THC 2007)
41WM1167	**Intersects**	**Historic**	**Early to mid-twentieth century refuse scatter**	**Not eligible (THC 2007)**
41WM1270	Within 1 mile	Prehistoric	Middle to Late Archaic open campsite	Not eligible w/n ROW (THC 2012)
41WM1271	Within 1 mile	Prehistoric	Middle Archaic to Late Prehistoric open campsite	Not eligible w/n ROW (THC 2012)
41WM1379	Within 1 mile	Historic	No site record on Atlas	Not eligible (THC 2018)
41WM1380	Within 1 mile	Historic	No site record on Atlas	Not eligible (THC 2018)
41WM1381	Within 1 mile	Historic	No site record on Atlas	Not eligible (THC 2018)

Bolded items intersect the project area.

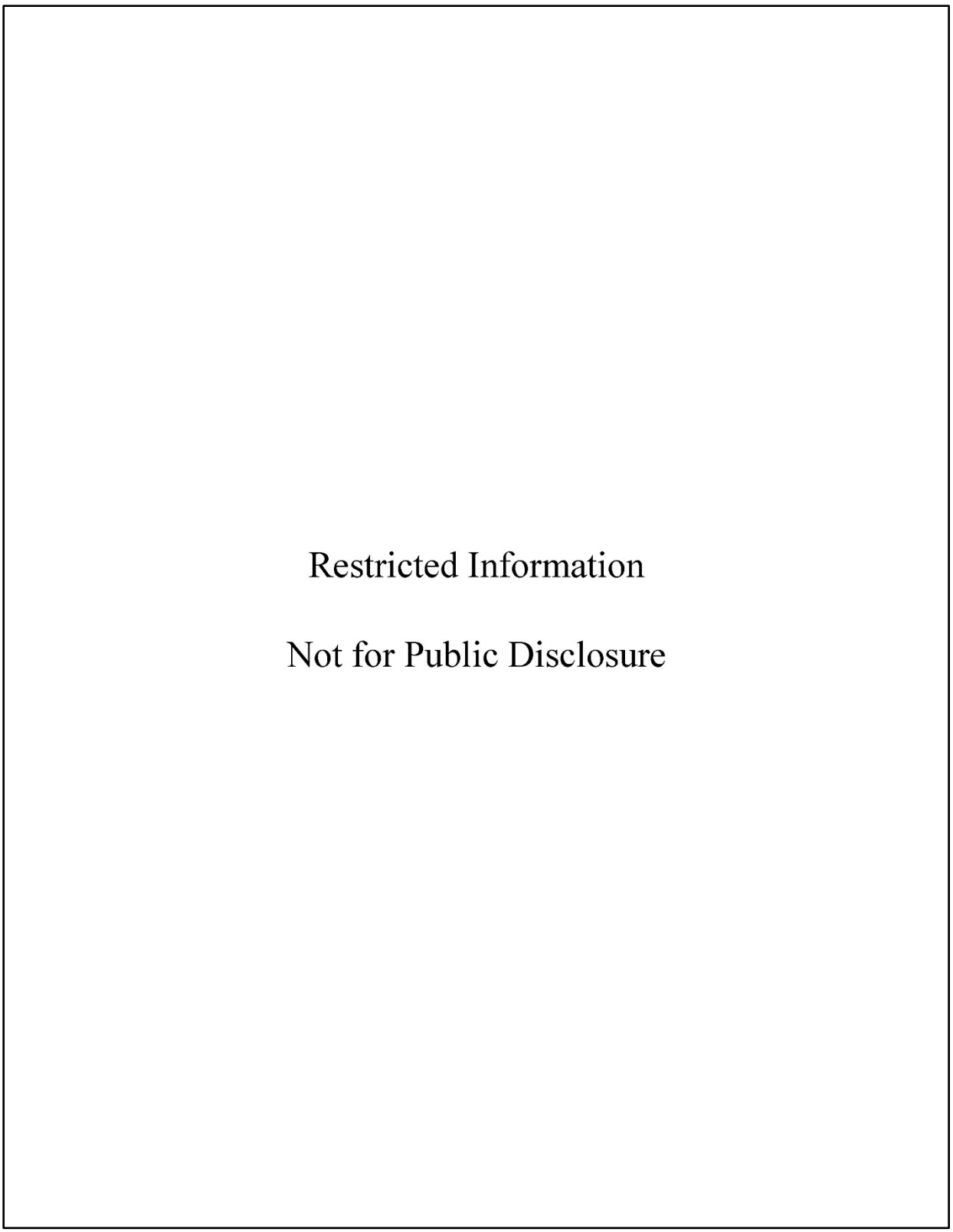

Figure 4. Previously recorded cultural resources within 1 mile of the project area.

Cemeteries

One cemetery (Palm Valley Lutheran), is located within 1 mile of the project area. The cemetery is located approximately 0.1 mile immediately north of the intersection of East Palm Valley Boulevard and US 79. The cemetery is associated with the Palm Valley Lutheran Church, and contains interments dating from 1852 to the present (Find A Grave 2020).

Other Identified Cultural Resources

In addition to the previously recorded archaeological sites and surveys, the review of the THC Atlas identified no Texas Historical Markers, NRHP-listed properties, or NRHP-listed districts within 1 mile of the project area.

Historic Map Review

The review of the TxDOT Historic Overlay maps and the historic-age USGS topographic quadrangle maps revealed 144 potentially historic-age structures within 1 mile of the project area (Foster et al. 2006; USGS 2020b). Of these 144 structures, only one is immediately adjacent to (within 300 feet) the project area (Figure 5). No historical structures intersect the project area. According to the review of historic maps and aerial imagery, the project area appears to have been used for urban development, with disturbances from land clearing, construction, development, and utilities.

Field Survey

On July 7 and 8, 2020, SWCA archaeologists conducted an intensive archaeological survey of the proposed project in the City of Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas. A team of two archaeologists conducted an intensive pedestrian survey, augmented with shovel tests, throughout the approximately 1.5-mile-long project area (Figures 6a–6c). The pedestrian survey consisted of walking the project area in three systematic transects and the subsurface explorations consisted of shovel tests excavated in areas that had the potential for buried cultural deposits, displayed the least amount of disturbances, and had not been previously surveyed.

The project area contains typical Blackland Prairie vegetation represented by a mixture of short grass pastures and hardwood riparian forests of oak and pecan (Figure 7). Ground surface visibility averaged 10 to 30 percent throughout the project area, due to dense vegetation cover and disturbances. Typical disturbances observed within the project area include construction of urban park facilities, modern sewer infrastructure, bridges, roads, concrete drainage culverts, urban development, and existing transmission and utility corridors (Figures 8 and 9).

The subsurface investigations consisted of 92 shovel test excavations conducted throughout the project area in areas that had the potential for buried cultural deposits and displayed the least amount of disturbances (see Figures 6a–6c). Overall, the project area displayed poor surface integrity due to pervasive disturbances associated with modern urban infrastructure and utilities.

The excavated shovel tests typically revealed a single stratum consisting of dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2) or dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) silty clay loam, silt loam, or clay loam to an average depth of 30 cmbs, terminating in compact or disturbed soils (see Appendix A). No cultural materials were identified on the ground surface or within any of the shovel tests excavated within the project area.

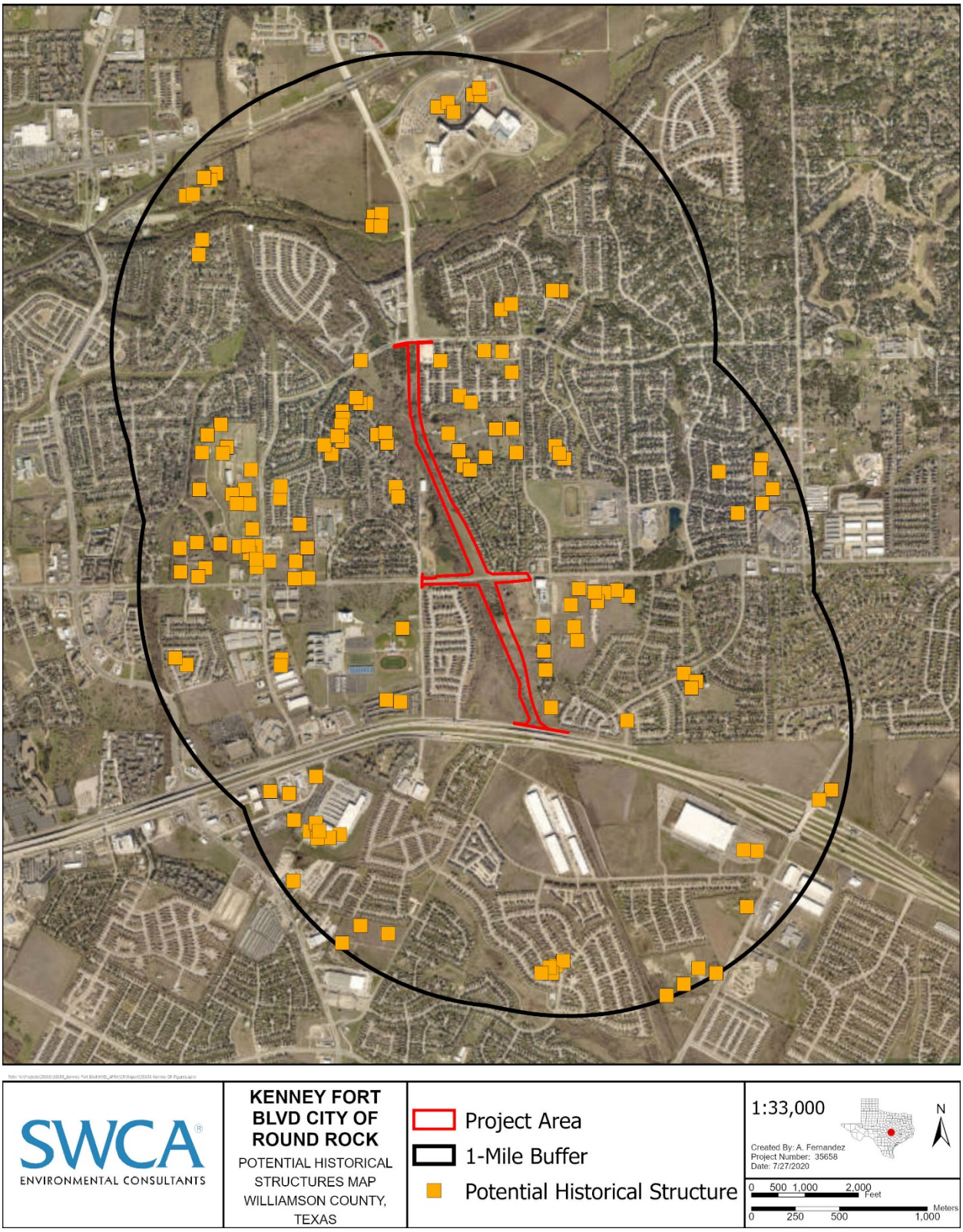

Figure 5. Potential historical structures within 1 mile of the project area.

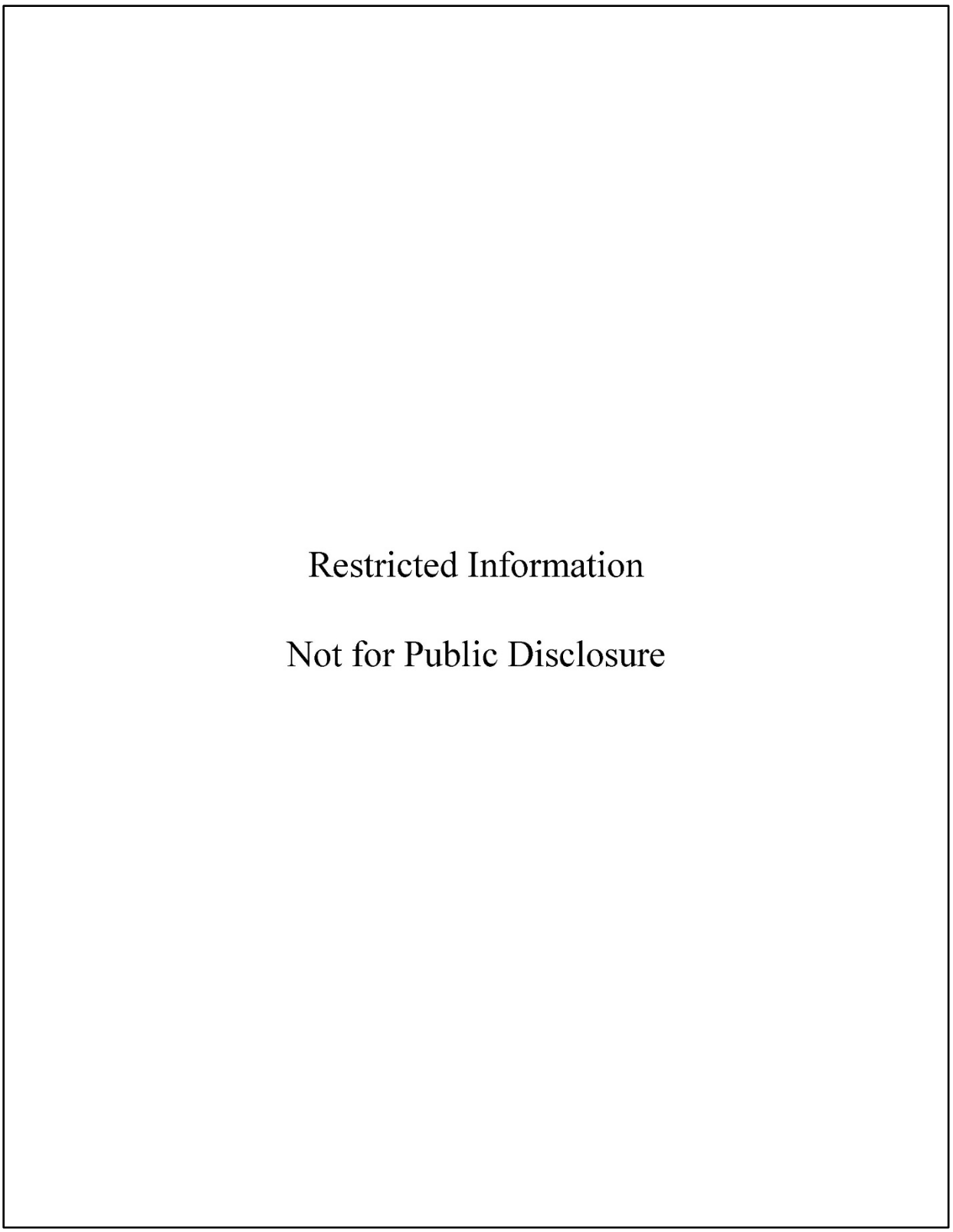

Figure 6a. Survey results map.

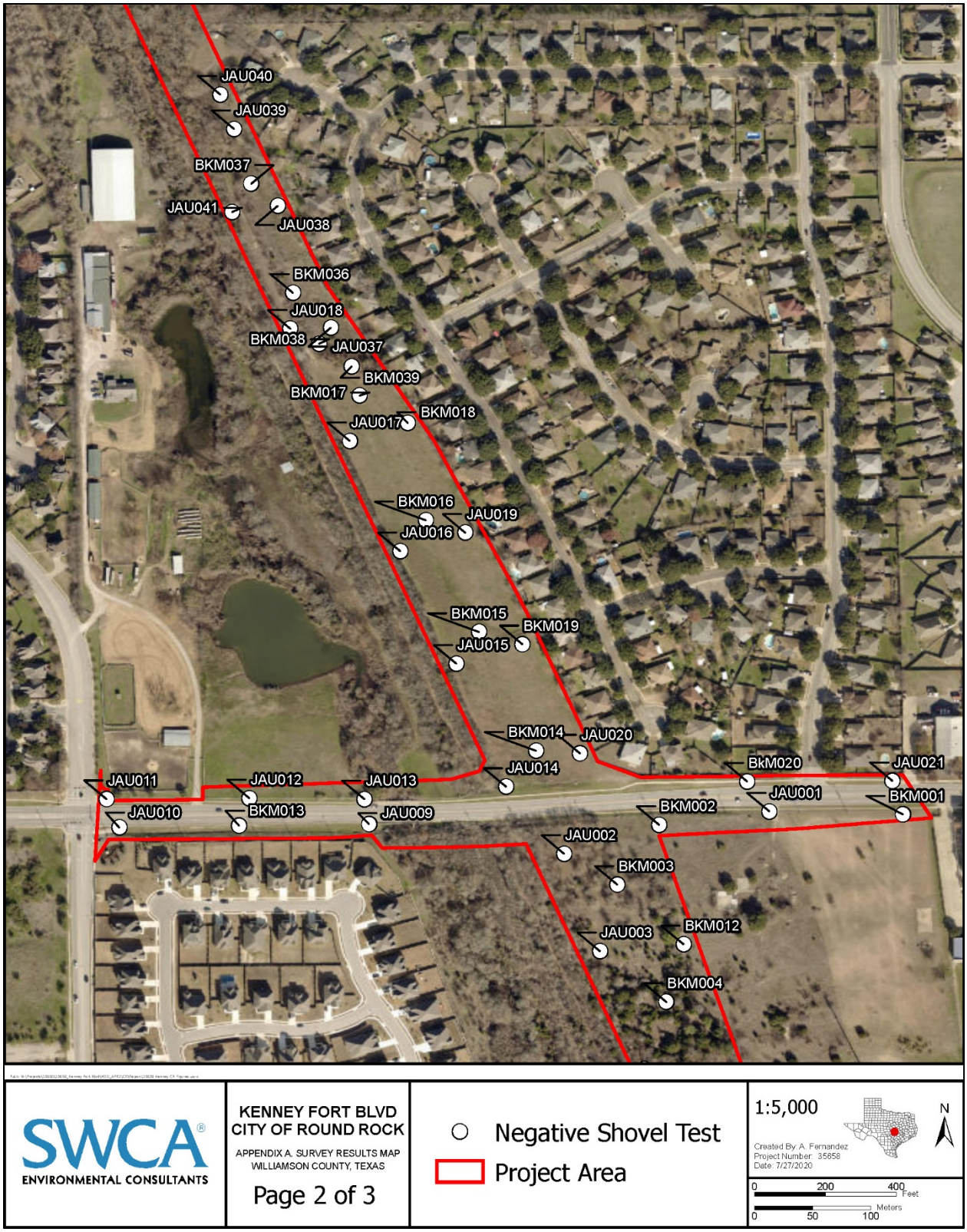

Figure 6b. Survey results map.

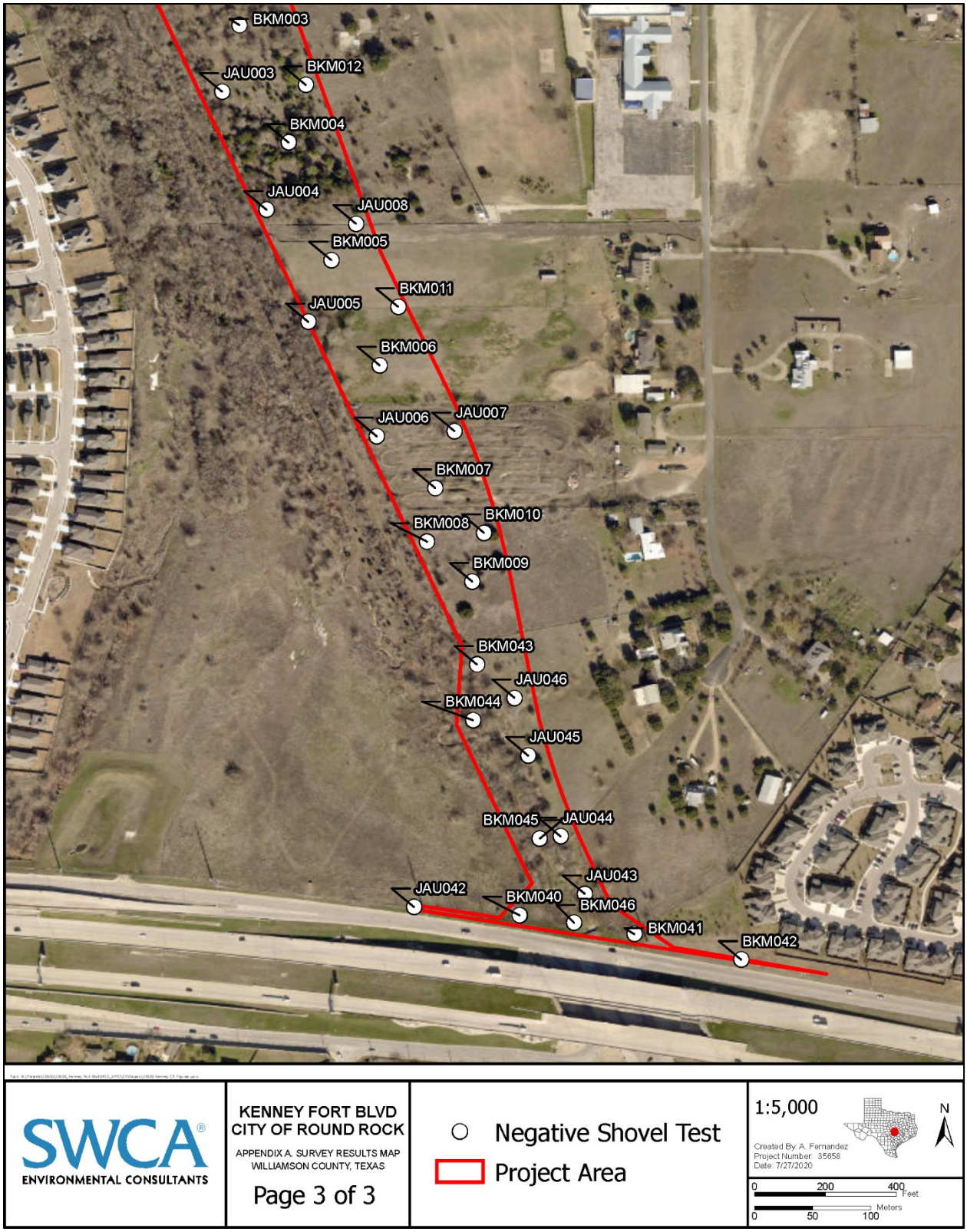

Figure 6c. Survey results map.

Figure 7. Overview of pasture and riparian vegetation, view facing southeast.

Figure 8. Sewer line and power line utilities disturbances within the project area, view facing northwest.

Figure 9. Disturbance from Gattis School Road, view facing west.

41WM1167

Site 41WM1167 was originally recorded in March 2007 by SWCA as part of the Arterial A Phase II Roadway Project. The site was recorded as a surficial historic refuse scatter consisting of approximately 12 tin cans, some amorphous metal scraps, bottle glass fragments, and one glass fuse. The site was recommended as not eligible for the NRHP and the THC concurred on June 7, 2007 (THC 2020). SWCA archaeologists revisited the site on July 8, 2020. Site 41WM1167 consists of a historical refuse dump in south-central Williamson County approximately 450 feet south of Forest Creek Boulevard and approximately 500 feet east of Dyer Branch, a tributary of Brushy Creek. The site is approximately 66 feet by 66 feet in size and is entirely within the project area (Figure 10). Vegetation at the site consists of tall and short grasses, scrub brush, secondary hardwood growth and prickly pear cacti (Figure 11). Site 41WM1167 has been destroyed by artificial disturbances including vegetation clearing, silt fencing, residential development, and commercial construction (Figures 12 and 13). Natural disturbances to the site include erosion and no artifactual materials were observed on surface or subsurface.

SWCA conducted a pedestrian survey augmented with shovel testing to delineate the extent of the site. SWCA excavated nine shovel tests (i.e., JAU025, JAU032–JAU035, and BKM030–BKM033) within and around the site, no cultural materials were observed in any of the shovel tests. Soils observed at the site typically revealed dark brown (10YR 4/3) clay loam to an average depth of 20 cmbs, terminating at shallow bedrock (Appendix A). 41WM1167 is not known to be associated with a locally or regionally significant event or individual and is therefore not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A or B. The site lacks structural remains and is therefore not eligible under Criterion C. The site appears to have been destroyed and is unlikely to yield information that will refine our understanding of past historic lifeways in this region. Therefore, SWCA recommends the site as not eligible for the NRHP under Criterion D. Therefore, SWCA recommends the site as not eligible for the NRHP and no further work or avoidance is recommended.

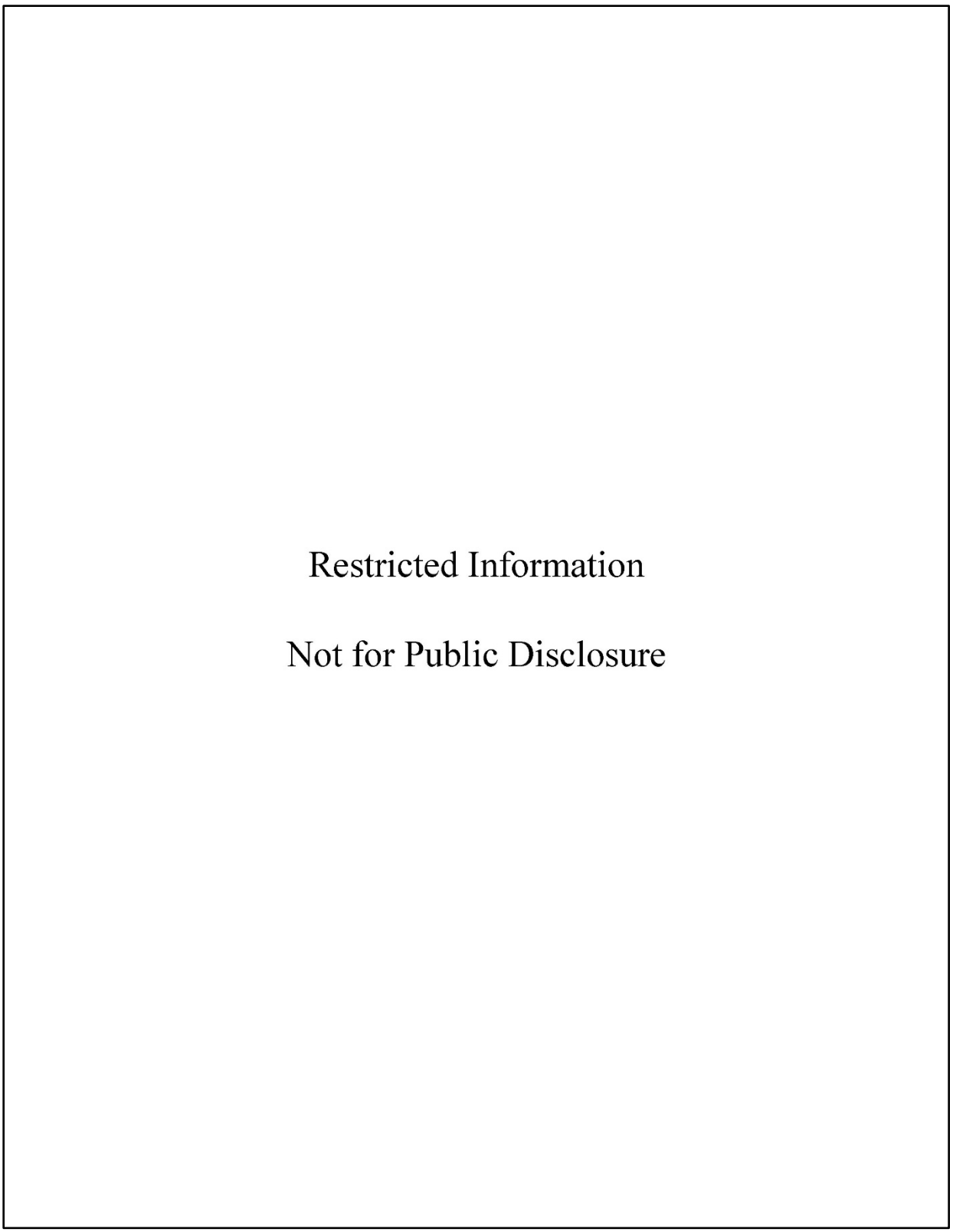

Figure 10. 41WM1167 site map.

Figure 11. Vegetation observed at 41WM1167, view facing south.

Figure 12. Construction disturbance observed at 41WM1167, view facing northeast.

Figure 13. Silt fence observed at 41WM1167, view facing northeast.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

At the request of CP&Y, and on behalf of the City of Round Rock, Texas, in coordination with TxDOT, SWCA conducted an intensive cultural resources survey for the proposed 1.5-mile-long Kenney Fort Boulevard Extension Project in the City of Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas. The project consists of an expansion of Kenney Fort Boulevard with a 6-lane arterial roadway that would ultimately connect SH 45 to US 79. In addition, the proposed project includes improvements to Gattis School Road from Meister Lane to Rusk Road and improvements at the existing SH 45 grade-separation. The total project area for cultural resource survey consists of approximately 42.1 acres, which includes 6.2 acres of existing ROW and 35.9 acres of additional ROW that would be required for the project. Of the additional ROW, 12.6 acres is currently owned by the State of Texas. The remaining 23.3 is being acquired from private owners (much of which has already been acquired by the City at-risk). In addition, a 0.2 acre of permanent drainage easement would also be acquired. It is anticipated that the depth of project impacts will generally be limited to 4 feet but in one isolated area along an approximately 500 foot long segment where the right-of-way slopes down from east to west the cut section on the east side will have a maximum depth of 8 feet. As the City of Round Rock is a political subdivision of the State of Texas, the Project is subject to review and approval by the THC under the ACT; therefore, the work was conducted under Texas Antiquities Permit No. 9390 and complied with requirements of the ACT.

SWCA conducted an intensive pedestrian survey with subsurface testing of the entire 1.5-mile-long project area. The goal of the work was to identify prehistoric and historic archaeological sites in the project area; to establish vertical and horizontal site boundaries as appropriate regarding the project area; and evaluate the significance and eligibility of any site for listing on the NRHP or as an SAL. All work was done in accordance with the ACT and standards and guidelines established by the THC and the CTA.

A background literature and records review indicated that 18 previously recorded archaeological sites are present within a 1-mile radius of the project area; including one archaeological site (i.e., 41WM1167) that intersects the project area. In addition to the records review, SWCA conducted a pedestrian survey,

augmented with shovel testing, within the entire 1.5-mile-long project area. For linear projects, the THC/CTA survey standards require a minimum of 16 shovel tests per mile, or minimally 16 shovel tests per 100-foot-wide survey transect across the project area, with thorough documentation of all exceptions (e.g., disturbance, slope, and impervious surfaces). Based on these standards, the project area required approximately 72 shovel tests. SWCA excavated a total of 92 shovel tests within the project area, exceeding the THC's required survey standards. Due to the potential for shallow bedrock, erosional deposits, lack of sediments with potential for buried soils, and the high disturbance along existing roads, SWCA determined that backhoe trenching was unwarranted for the current project area. No cultural materials were identified on the ground surface or within any of the shovel tests excavated within the project area. During the current survey, SWCA also found that 41WM1167 had been destroyed. No cultural materials were observed on surface or subsurface and the site has been impacted by industrial and residential construction. On June 7, 2007, the THC determined the site was not eligible for the NRHP.

In accordance with the ACT, SWCA made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify cultural resources within the project area. No archaeological sites were identified that meet the criteria for designation as a SAL, per 13 Texas Administrative Code 26.12; therefore, SWCA recommends that no additional cultural resources investigations should be warranted within the project area, as currently defined.

REFERENCES CITED

Campbell, R. B.

1989 An Empire for Slavery: The Peculiar Institution in Texas, 1821-1865. Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge.

Find A Grave

2020 Cemetery Location. Available at: https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery. Accessed July 2020.

Foster, T. R., T. Summerville, and T. Brown

2006 The Texas Historic Overlay: A Geographic Information System of Historic Map Images for Planning Transportation Projects in Texas. Prepared for the Texas Department of Transportation by PBS&J, Austin.

Griffith, G. E., S. A. Bryce, J. M. Omernik, J. A. Comstock, A. C. Rogers, B. Harrison, S. L. Hatch, and D. Bezanson

2007 Ecoregions of Texas, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Corvallis, Oregon: U.S. Geological Survey. Scale 1:1,400,000.

Nationwide Environmental Title Research, LLC.

1999 Historic Aerials Viewer. Available at www.historicaerials.com/viewer. Accessed July 2020.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

2020 Web Soil Survey. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Available at: http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov. Accessed July 2020.

Newcomb Jr., W.

2002 *The Indians of Texas, from Prehistoric to Modern Times*. Thirteenth Edition. The University of Texas Press, Austin.

Scarbrough, C. S.

2007 Round Rock. The Handbook of Texas Online at http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/online/articles/her03. Accessed July 2020.

Texas Historical Commission (THC 2020)

2020 Texas Archeological Site Atlas restricted database. Available at: http://atlas.thc.state.tx.us/. Accessed July 2020.

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

2020a Geologic Map Data. Available at https://www.usgs.gov/maps/geologic-map-data. Accessed July 2020.

2020b The National Geologic Map Database (TopoView). Historical topographic map collection. Available at: http://ngmdb.usgs.gov/maps/TopoView/. Accessed July 2020.

Webb, W.P. (Editor)

1952 *The Handbook of Texas*. 2 Vols. Texas State Historical Association, Austin.

This page intentionally left blank.

APPENDIX A

Shovel Test Data

This page intentionally left blank.

Shovel Test No.	Trinomial	Level	Depth (cmbs)	Cultural Material (Y/N)	Munsell	Color	Soil Texture	Description/ Comments	Termination
BKM001	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Silt loam	Disturbed soils- near transmission line and road	Compact Soil
BKM002	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Silt loam	Disturbed- adjacent to transmission line and road disturbance	Compact Soil
BKM003	N/A	1	0-35	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Silty clay loam	Rootlets/roots 3%	Compact Soil
BKM004	N/A	1	0-40	N	10YR 3/2	Very dark grayish brown	Silty clay loam	Rootlets/roots 2%	Compact Soil
BKM005	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Silty clay	Cleared pasture with short grasses	Compact Soil
BKM006	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Silty clay	Cleared pasture with short grasses	Compact Soil
BKM007	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Silty clay	Rootlets/roots 2% crushed gravels 3%	Compact Soil
BKM008	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Silty clay loam	Roots rootlets 2% gravels 2%	Compact Soil
BKM009	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Silty clay loam	Roots and rootlets 5%	Compact Soil
BKM010	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Silty clay loam	Roots and rootlets 2% snail shell (heliodiscus) 1%	Compact Soil
BKM011	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Silty clay	Roots and rootlets 2%	Compact Soil
BKM012	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Silty clay loam	Roots and rootlets 2% gravels 1%	Compact Soil
BKM013	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Silt loam	Gravels 2%	Compact Soil
BKM014	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Silty clay loam	Roots and rootlets 2% gravels 10%	Compact Soil
BKM015	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Silty clay loam	Roots and rootlets 2% gravels 10% modern plastic 1%	Compact Soil
BKM016	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/2	Dark grayish brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 2% gravels 2%	Compact Soil
BKM017	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/2	Dark grayish brown	Loamy sand	Roots and rootlets 2% gravels 2%	Compact Soil
BKM018	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 2%	Compact Soil
BKM019	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Silt loam	Gravels 5% large rock fragments 10%	Compact Soil
BKM020	N/A	1	0-15	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Silt loam	Gravels and crushed rock 10%	Compact Soil
BKM021	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 1%, snail shell 1%	Compact Soil
BKM022	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Roots 5%	Compact Soil
BKM023	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 5/4	Yellowish brown	Silt loam	Gravels, large rock fragments 25%	Compact Soil

Shovel Test No.	Trinomial	Level	Depth (cmbs)	Cultural Material (Y/N)	Munsell	Color	Soil Texture	Description/ Comments	Termination
BKM024	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 5%	Compact Soil
BKM025	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 5% gravels 2%	Compact Soil
BKM026	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 5/6	Yellowish brown	Silt loam	Gravels and large rock fragments 15%	Bedrock
BKM027	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 5/6	Yellowish brown	Silt loam	Gravels and rock fragments 10%	Compact Soil
BKM028	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 5%	Compact Soil
BKM029	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 5% gravels 2%	Compact Soil
BKM030	41WM1167	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 10%	Compact Soil
BKM031	41WM1167	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 5%	Compact Soil
BKM032	41WM1167	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Clay loam	Gravels and large rock fragments 10% roots 2%	Compact Soil
BKM033	41WM1167	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Gravels 5% roots 3%	Compact Soil
BKM034	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Clay loam	Gravels 10% roots 2%	Compact Soil
BKM035	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 6/6	Brownish yellow	Sandy clay loam	Pebbles 3%. Disturbed soil, fill from adjacent construction disturbance	Compact Soil
BKM036	N/A	1	0-35	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Roots 2%	Compact Soil
BKM037	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 3/3	Dark brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 2%	Compact Soil
BKM038	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 3%	Compact Soil
BKM039	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Roots and rootlets 2%	Compact Soil
BKM040	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Gravels 5% roots 3%	Compact Soil
BKM041	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 3/3	Dark brown	Clay loam	Gravels 5% roots 2%	Compact Soil
BKM042	N/A	1	0-15	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Gravels 10% rootlets 1%	Compact Soil
BKM043	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	Rootlets 1%	Compact Soil
BKM044	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	Rootlets 2%	Compact Soil
BKM045	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	Rootlets 2%	Compact Soil
BKM046	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 3/3	Dark brown	Clay loam	Gravels 10% rootlets 2%	Compact Soil
JAU001	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 3/3	Dark brown	Clay loam	None	Disturbance
JAU002	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay loam	None	Compact Soil
JAU003	N/A	1	0-35	N	10YR 3/2	Very dark grayish brown	Clay loam	None	Compact Soil

Shovel Test No.	Trinomial	Level	Depth (cmbs)	Cultural Material (Y/N)	Munsell	Color	Soil Texture	Description/ Comments	Termination
JAU004	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay loam	None	N/A
		2	25-35	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Compact Soil
JAU005	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU006	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 3/2	Very dark grayish brown	Clay loam	20% gravels	Bedrock
JAU007	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 3/2	Very dark grayish brown	Clay loam	<20% gravels	Compact Soil
JAU008	N/A	1	0-35	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay loam	10% gravels	Disturbance
JAU009	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 5/2	Grayish brown	Silt loam	None	Disturbance
JAU010	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 5/2	Grayish brown	Silt loam	None	Disturbance
JAU011	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 5/2	Grayish brown	Silt loam	None	Disturbance
JAU012	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Silty clay loam	10% pebbles	Disturbance
JAU013	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Silt loam	None	Disturbance
JAU014	N/A	1	0-15	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Silt loam	15% pebbles, yellow mottles	Compact Soil
JAU015	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	Disturbed from sewer line	Compact Soil
JAU016	N/A	1	0-35	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Compact Soil
JAU017	N/A	1	0-35	N	10YR 3/1	Very dark gray	Clay	None	Compact Soil
JAU018	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Compact Soil
JAU019	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Compact Soil
JAU020	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Disturbance
JAU021	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 5/2	Grayish brown	Silt loam	None	Disturbance
JAU022	N/A	1	0-15	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Silt loam	10% pebbles, road gravels	Disturbance
JAU023	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 4/4	Dark yellowish brown	Silt loam	None	Bedrock
JAU024	N/A	1	0-15	N	10YR 3/2	Very dark grayish brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU025	41WM1167	1	0-10	N	10YR 5/2	Grayish brown	Clay loam	<20% gravels, pebbles	Bedrock
JAU026	N/A	1	0-35	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	None	Compact Soil

Shovel Test No.	Trinomial	Level	Depth (cmbs)	Cultural Material (Y/N)	Munsell	Color	Soil Texture	Description/ Comments	Termination
JAU027	N/A	1	0-40	N	10YR 3/3	Dark brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU028	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/2	Dark grayish brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU029	N/A	1	0-35	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU030	N/A	1	0-15	N	10YR 5/3	Brown	Silt loam	<20% gravels, pebbles	Bedrock
JAU031	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU032	41WM1167	1	25	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	Modern trash	Bedrock
JAU033	41WM1167	1	0-10	N	10YR 4/2	Dark grayish brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU034	41WM1167	1	0-15	N	7.5YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU035	41WM1167	1	0-5	N	10YR 3/3	Dark brown	Clay loam	None	Disturbance
JAU036	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 4/2	Dark grayish brown	Clay loam	15% pebbles, limestone pebbles	Disturbance
JAU037	N/A	1	0-20	N	10YR 4/2	Dark grayish brown	Clay loam	10% gravels, cobbles	Bedrock
JAU038	N/A	1	0-15	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU039	N/A	1	0-25	N	10YR 3/3	Dark brown	Clay loam	None	Bedrock
JAU040	N/A	1	0-15	N	10YR 4/3	Brown	Clay loam	None	Compact Soil
JAU041	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Disturbance
JAU042	N/A	1	0-10	N	10YR 3/2	Very dark grayish brown	Clay loam	None	Compact Soil
JAU043	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Compact Soil
JAU044	N/A	1	0-35	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Compact Soil
JAU045	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Compact Soil
JAU046	N/A	1	0-30	N	10YR 2/2	Very dark brown	Clay	None	Bedrock